

# NEW MEXICO PLACE NAMES

A GEOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

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Domestic Geographic Names  
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DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

**RUDOLPH** (Quay). First postmaster, Carolina Rudolph. Post office, 1908-10; changed to **CASTLEBERRY**.

**RUDY TOWN** (San Miguel). Once a settlement of the American Metals Co. mine at Terrero, 18 mi N of Pecos.

**RUIDOSO** (Lincoln). Span., "noisy." Ranching and tourist town on NM 37, 24 mi SE of Carrizozo. Picturesque setting on Ruidoso River, at foot of Old Baldy Peak. Name describes the fast-flowing, noisy creek that runs through the town. Formerly known as **DOWLIN'S MILL**. Post office, 1882—. **RUIDOSO DOWNS** (Lincoln). See **GREEN TREE**. **RUIDOSO RIVER**, **LOWER**, **MIDDLE**, and **UPPER**, also **NORTH FORK** and **SOUTH FORK** (Lincoln). In Lincoln National Forest. See **Rio Ruidoso**.

**RUIZ**. Spanish family name, the first bearer of which, Pedro Ruiz, was in the soldier-escorts to NM in 1608 and 1609. Other men with the name appear in seventeenth-century records, and a Juan Ruiz de Caceres is listed as a property owner in Santa Cruz in 1698. **RUIZ** (Bernalillo). **RUIZ** (Sandoval).

**RUSSELL** (Chaves). Spur on AT&SF RR 3 mi NW of Hagerman, built about 1912. Named for Howard Russell, who, along with his neighbors, used it for loading hay.

**RUSSIA** (Otero). Station on old EP&SW RR, 25 mi E of Alamogordo. A lumber camp, terminus of the Cloudcroft branch of the railroad; abandoned before World War II. Post office, 1904-06.

**RUSTLER CANYON** (Grant). In Big Burro Mts., W of the Continental Divide, 6 mi SW of Tyrone.

**RUTH** (Guadalupe). Locality 6 mi W of Ima, where there were early-day buffalo hunts. Named for Ruth Darnell of Tucumcari. Post office, 1905-17.

**RUTHERON** (Rio Arriba). Ranching community on NM 95, 13 mi S of Chama. Named by a rancher, Heron, for his daughter Ruth; hence **Ruth-cron**. Post office, 1927—.

**RUTTER** (Doña Ana). On SP RR, 20 mi SW of Las Cruces, and 5 mi SE of Afton.

**RYADO** (Colfax). Post office, 1873-81; changed to **RAYADO**.

**SABADO CREEK** (Sandoval). Span., "Saturday." 7 mi N of Cuba.

**SABINA**. Span., "savin, juniper"; in NM, "dwarf juniper." *Sabina* is the correct Spanish term for certain species of fragrant juniper. The

early colonists applied the name to the common scrub cedar or juniper that covers most of the hills. In time, the word took on a masculine ending. **SABINAL** (Socorro). "Place of junipers." On AT&SF RR, 11 mi N of Bernardo, on US 60 and 85. Post office, 1866-1907. **SABINAL RIVERSIDE DRAIN** (Socorro). Heads W of the Rio Grande at Belen and empties into the river 10 mi below, near San Juan. **SABINO** (Bernalillo). 4 mi SE of US 66, at Tijeras. **SABINO** (Harding). Trading point 21 mi E of Roy. **SABINOSO** (San Miguel). "Place overgrown with junipers." Ranching community 5 mi N of US 65, 21 mi SW of Roy. Post office, 1914, intermittently, to present.

**SACATON CREEK** (Grant). *Sacatón* is a misspelling of *zacatón*, an American-Spanish term for a kind of fodder grass that grows in bunches along river bottoms or other lowlands where there is moisture. This creek is in Mogollon Mts.; heads on S slope of West Baldy in Catron County and flows S into Grant to Duck Creek 1 mi above Buckhorn. **SACATON** (McKinley).

**SACRAMENTO**. Span., "sacrament." A contraction of *El Santísimo Sacramento*, "the Most Blessed Sacrament," alluding to the Holy Eucharist. When thus used for place names in Spanish countries, it refers to this particular sacrament, and not to any of the other six sacraments of the Catholic Church. **SACRAMENTO** (Otero). 15 mi SE of Cloudcroft. Post office, 1935—. **SACRAMENTO MOUNTAINS** (Otero). Lie E of S part of the Tularosa Basin and form about 50 mi of its mountain wall. This plateau descends gently E toward the Pecos Valley for about 75 mi. Name appears as **SIERRA DEL SACRAMENTO** on Mapa de los EUM (1828). **SACRAMENTO RIVER** (Otero). Has its source near summit of Sacramento Mts. Drains the areas of the Pecos Valley and the Tularosa Basin; heads S of Marcia and flows to the Circle Cross Ranch.

**SACRED FIRE MOUNTAIN** (Santa Fe). See **BLACK MESA**.

**SADDLEBACK MESA** (Quay). 15 mi S of Tucumcari and 7 mi W of NM 18. Named for its peculiar shape, which resembles that of a saddle. The headwaters of Plaza Largo Creek are here.

**SAIL ROCK** (Colfax). Peculiar rock formation in Cimarron Canyon, resembling the sail of a boat moving in the shallow waters.

**SAINT ANN'S MISSION** (Lincoln). Directly across US 70 from Bonnell's Ranch, where Eagle